



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

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(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Mountain View—Ransomware 'Here to Stay,' Warns Google Study

(U) Cyber-thieves have made at least tens of millions of dollars from ransomware in the last two years, according to research conducted by Google. The findings, which were presented at Black Hat, revealed that, of the ransomware payments they were able to track, authors have made at least \$25m in profit so far, with most of it occurring in 2016. Two types of ransomware made most of the money—the Locky and Cerber strains—but other variants are starting to emerge, according to the study.

SOURCE: 27 July 2017, [BBC](#)

(U) San Francisco—Russia Used Facebook in Attempt to Spy on Macron Campaign

(U) Russian intelligence agents attempted to spy on President Emmanuel Macron's election campaign earlier this year by creating phony Facebook personas, according to a US congressman and two other people briefed on the effort. About two dozen Facebook accounts were created to conduct surveillance on Macron campaign officials and others close to the centrist former financier, the sources said. Facebook confirmed that it had detected spying accounts in France and deactivated them. It credited a combination of improved automated detection and stepped-up human efforts to find sophisticated attacks.

SOURCE: 26 July 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Santa Ana—Inmates in OC Jailbreak Last Year Recorded Video of Escape

(U) A video shot with a contraband cellphone has emerged showing the January 2016 escape of three prisoners from the Orange County Men's Central Jail in Santa Ana. The heavily edited video—provided to media by an attorney connected to the case—includes voiceover from one of the escaped inmates and shows the inside of the dorm where the men were jailed. The escaped men led authorities on a weeklong manhunt before they were recaptured.

SOURCE: 26 July 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia—TSA Increasing Security Measures Regarding Carry-On Electronics

(U) Washington—The Transportation Security Administration said yesterday that it is boosting security measures by requiring any carry-on electronic larger than a cellphone to be screened separately at US airports. The new screening will apply to devices like e-readers, iPads, and tablets. As the new procedures are phased in, TSA officers will ask passengers to take out their small electronics and "place them in a bin with nothing on top or below"—similar to laptop procedures. TSA cited an "an increased threat to aviation security" as the reason for the move.

SOURCE: 26 July 2017, [CNN Money](#)

(U) New York—Rikers Island Inmate Escapes, Found after Seven-Hour Search

(U) New York—A man who had escaped a high-security detention center on Rikers Island, resulting in a massive manhunt involving multiple law enforcement agencies, has been found. The escapee, 24-year-

old Naquan Hill, was found by two Department of Correction staff members in a trailer on the island just before 3 a.m. this morning, more than seven hours after he hopped a fence, officials say. The island was put on lockdown as Port Authority Police Department officers canvassed near LaGuardia Airport and NYPD Harbor Unit searched the waters around the island.

SOURCE: 27 July 2017, [NBC 4 New York](#)

(U) Texas—First Reported Case of Zika Virus Reported in South Texas

(U) Hidalgo County—For the first time since last fall, officials in Texas have reported what they believe is a case of mosquito transmission of the Zika virus within the state's borders. If correct, it would be the first known instance of local mosquito transmission within the continental United States this year. Officials believe the Hidalgo County resident picked up the virus locally because the person had not traveled recently to any areas with local Zika transmission and had no other risk factors. Local officials said they have increased mosquito-control efforts and have asked doctors in the area to be on the lookout for more cases.

SOURCE: 26 July 2017, [New York Times](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Greece—US Indicts Suspected Russian 'Mastermind' of \$4 Billion Bitcoin Laundering Scheme

(U) Athens—A Russian man was arrested in northern Greece on 25 July for laundering more than \$4 billion for people involved in crimes ranging from computer hacking to drug trafficking. Yesterday, a US jury in New York indicted the man, Alexander Vinnik—the operator of the BTC-e digital currency exchange—following an investigation led by the US Justice Department along with several other federal agencies and task forces. US authorities also linked him to the failure of Mt. Gox, a Japan-based bitcoin exchange that collapsed in 2014 after being hacked.

SOURCE: 26 July 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Luxembourg—EU Court Keeps Hamas on Terrorism List, Removes Tamil Tigers

(U) Luxembourg—The European Union's top court kept Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas on the EU terrorism blacklist yesterday and removed Sri Lankan separatist rebels, the Tamil Tigers. Judges at the European Court of Justice (ECJ) overruled the General Court's view of 2014 that the Council of the European Union, the 28-nation grouping, had insufficient evidence to maintain asset freezes and travel bans on Hamas. Hamas has been listed since 2003, its military wing since 2001. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was added to the list in 2006.

SOURCE: 26 July 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Syria—US-Backed Syria Force Ousts ISIS from Half of Raqqa

(U) Raqqa—A US-backed alliance has ousted ISIS jihadists from half of their Syrian bastion Raqqa, a monitor said yesterday, as the escalating fighting drove up the civilian death toll. The Syrian Democratic Forces have been fighting for several months to capture the northern city, often referred to as the Syrian capital of ISIS' so-called "caliphate." The SDF is now in control of 50 percent of Raqqa, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Its Arab and Kurdish fighters first entered Raqqa on 6 June, seven months after launching their flagship offensive for the city -- called Operation Wrath of the Euphrates.

SOURCE: 26 July 2017, [AFP](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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